



News Release

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Life-Saving Automatic External Defibrillators Available to Rural Communities through Grant Program

(Salt Lake City, UT) – In an effort to make life-saving automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) readily available in Utah’s rural communities, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) is accepting applications from organizations interested in receiving an AED through a grant program. AED grants are available to the 25 rural counties in Utah as defined by the federal program (this excludes Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, and Utah Counties).

Those interested in applying for the AED Grants, can download an application form from the UDOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Web site at www.health.utah.gov/ems. Completed applications must be received by the Bureau of EMS via mail, fax, or hand delivery, attention: Riki Rice, **no later than Monday, March 20, 2006**. The Bureau of EMS mailing address is P.O. Box 142004, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2004, and the Bureau of EMS fax number is 1-801-538-6808.

Each grant applicant must sign a memorandum of agreement to apply for the program. Recipients agree to maintain and report usage of the AED, ensure the AED is easily accessible, complete other administrative duties and create a plan for replacing the AED in five years. Recipients must also develop a training plan within 10 days of receipt of machine and complete all training within 60 days of receipt of the machine.

“We are very hopeful that the rural AED program will dramatically decrease the number of sudden cardiac deaths by early access to defibrillation,” said Paul R. Patrick, Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, UDOH. “When critical minutes count,

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there are life-saving benefits to having quick access to an AED. They are one of the key links in the chain of survival as identified by the American Heart Association.”

Since the program began in 2003, there have been 18 documented cardiac arrest cases for which AEDs made available through the grant program have been used. The most recent happened this past January when quick access to one of the AEDs saved the individual’s life.

In the past three years, the UDOH has received a total of \$624,764 of AED funding for rural communities. To date, 425 AEDs have been purchased and placed in rural communities.

UDOH receives funding for the rural AED program through the Rural Access to Emergency Devices (RAED) Program from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration. This is the fourth and possibly final year of funding for the program.

Questions regarding the grant program or the application process can be directed to Don Wood, program director with the Bureau of EMS, at 801-538-6287 or Riki Rice at 801-538-6028, e-mail address: rikirice@utah.gov or 1-800-284-1131.

For more information, about the Bureau of EMS, visit www.health.utah.gov/ems or call the Bureau of EMS at 801-538-6435 or 1-800-284-1131.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.